

## **CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT ACT (CAPTA) GRANT APPLICATION - FISCAL YEAR 2004**

### **Applicant's identifying information:**

#### **Name and Address of Applicant**

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The State of Missouri currently conducts a number of activities targeted toward the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect. Since implementing our multi-response system to address reports of child abuse and neglect, Missouri continues to maintain a high standard of practice. Child safety is the paramount concern and Missouri's practice ensures child safety through a child focused family-centered approach. Missouri's practice is culturally sensitive, strengths-oriented and employs community child protection philosophy. Current and future initiatives are designed around strengthening and ensuring quality improvement of our statewide practice. The following activities are in fulfillment of CAPTA for the application and grant in accordance with the ACYF-CB-PI-03-08, and pursuant to compliance with part B of title IV of the Social Security Act [42 U.S.C. 620 et seq. and 42 U.S.C. 5106a of the CAPTA law], numbers (1), (2), (3), (4), (6), and (12):

- (1) The intake, assessment, screening, and investigation of reports of abuse and neglect as they relate to the CPS Redesign, CPS Redesign Evaluation and Family-centered Services;
- (2) (A) Creating and improving the use of multi-disciplinary and interagency protocols to enhance investigations as it relates to the CPS Redesign, CPS Redesign Evaluation and Family-Centered Services; and  
(B) Improving legal preparation and representation, including –
  - (i) Procedures for appealing and responding to appeals of substantiated reports of abuse and neglect; and
  - (ii) Provisions for the appointment of an individual appointed to represent a child in judicial proceedings;
- (3) Case management, including ongoing case monitoring and delivery of services and treatment provided to children and their families as it relates to the CPS Redesign, Family-Centered Services, the National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse and statewide rollout of Community Partnerships for the Protection of Children initiative through the Center for Community Partnerships in Child Welfare (formally Edna McConnell Clark Foundation) in conjunction with the Center for the Study of Social Policy;
- (4) Enhancing the general child protective system by developing, improving, and implementing risk and safety assessment tools and protocols, as it relates to the CPS Redesign, CPS Redesign Evaluation and Family-Centered Services, including National Council on Crime and Delinquency, Children's Research Center's Structured Decision Making practice model;
- (6) Developing, strengthening, and facilitating training including: (A) research-based strategies to promote collaboration with the families; (B)

legal duties of such individuals; and (C) personal safety training for case workers;

- (12) Developing and enhancing the capacity of community-based programs to integrate shared leadership strategies between parents and professionals to prevent and treat child abuse and neglect at the neighborhood level, as it relates to the CPS Redesign, Community Partnerships for the Protection of Children, and the National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse.

The Child Protection System (CPS) Redesign that began in July 1995 created a state of the art use of multi-disciplinary and interagency protocols to enhance the intake, screening, investigation, and assessment of reports of child abuse and neglect. The CPS Redesign improved past methods by creating various responses to reports, while maintaining safety of children. Through the creation of community partnerships, families receive faster and more comprehensive service delivery. The CPS Redesign, also referred to as Senate Bill 595.

The Division continues to enhance the general CPS system by fine tuning the safety and risk assessment tools and protocols. A holistic Family Assessment is completed at the time a family initially experiences a hotline report, if the report is screened as a Family Assessment. Prior to this approach, a traditional, fact finding investigation was used with all families and a thorough needs assessment and service delivery were not completed until on-going services were provided. As the new practice was fully implemented statewide, in 1999, the CS-14 was replaced with the CS-16. The CS-16 is a tool that provides a comprehensive Family Assessment in instances where a report is screened as a Family Assessment, and in instances after an investigation has been completed. However, in 2000, the Children's Division began working with the Children's Research Center (CRC), a Division of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, on Structured Decision Making at critical decision points, including: Screening a call at the Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline; determining Response Priority; determining Track Assignment; Assessing Safety; and Assessing Risk. As a result of the work with CRC, the Safety and Risk Assessment tools were incorporated into the Child Abuse/Neglect Investigation/Family Assessment Summary (CPS-1 and CPS-1a), used in response to a child abuse/neglect report.

A follow-up evaluation was conducted by the Institute of Applied Research, which found: "the rate of new child abuse/neglect (ca/n) reports continued to be lower for demonstration families after five years; the factors underlying family risk of ca/n were more important explainers of recurrence than changes brought about by the demonstration; and taking risk into account, families in the original demonstration still had few new hotlines." (*A Study of the Missouri Family Assessment and Response System after Five Years and Structured Decision*

*Making Final Report*, Institute of Applied Research, June, 2003, <http://www.iarstl.org/papers/MODiffResp2004a.pdf> ).

Funding from the grant has continued to be utilized to assist all areas with community development efforts, and for training and educational meetings to support the new practice. The CPS Redesign involves a focus on the strengthening or building of collaborations between the Division and communities, through shared leadership strategies, between parents and professionals for child protection at every level of community, especially in local neighborhoods. Services to families will be enhanced and developed through community partnerships that create a safety network of support for families and children.

Missouri has utilized the Children's Justice Act (CJA) Task Force in an advisory capacity to the Division on issues relating to child abuse prevention and treatment. The CJA Task Force is comprised of representatives across the state from the areas of law enforcement, health, mental health, judiciary, education, community services, child advocacy, child welfare, residential services, and the state legislature. The CJA Task Force assisted the Division in establishing three Citizen Review Panels across Missouri. Originally the plan was to have panels established geographically. One of the three advisory panels was to be positioned in the eastern region, one in the central region, and one in the western region of the state. After careful consideration, Missouri's Children's Division determined that this approach was not the most effective way formulate new panels. In an effort to avoid creating unnecessary duplication but to have broad involvement of community members, who represent a variety of disciplines as well as geographic communities, three existing panels were utilized: CJA Task Force, Child Fatality Review Panel, and Child Abuse and Neglect Review Boards. Each panel meets at least quarterly and develops annual reports, which are made available to the public. The panels provide feedback and recommendations to the Division on their assessment of the status of children and families.

New CAPTA eligibility requirements not addressed in the following IV-B plan, include the triage procedures for the appropriate referral of a child not at risk of imminent harm to a community organization or voluntary preventive services through a collaborative pilot project with the Family Support Division, Temporary Assistance Self Sufficiency Case managers in the Jackson, Clay and Platte counties. The Self-Sufficiency Case Managers will respond to non-ca/n referrals with families who have open cases. The implementation of this pilot project is due to begin in July 2004. Secondly, in respect to CAPTA requirement to train the child's legal representative in judicial proceedings, the Missouri Bar Association provides extensive training for all newly appointed Guardian ad Litem and CASA representatives to be educated on the following: basic child abuse and neglect and the needs of the child; exercise independent judgment on behalf of the child in all matters; meet with the child in the child's placement as often as

necessary to ensure the child is safe and to ascertain and represent the child's best interest; review progress of the case and advocate for timely hearings; participate in development or matters affecting the best interest of the child and monitor implementation of court-ordered services to determine whether services are being timely provided. Lastly, in response to the CAPTA requirement to have provisions and procedures for referral of a child under the age of three who is involved in a substantiated case of child abuse or neglect to early intervention services funded under part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, Missouri Children's Division is collaborating with the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). The Division is coordinating an effort to begin automatically generate referrals to the DESE, upon the investigator's conclusion of the ca/n report into our data system in which the report is found to be substantiated.

Family-Centered Services will continue to develop, strengthen, and facilitate training opportunities and requirements for individuals overseeing and providing services to children and their families through the child protection system. These training approaches are primarily provided at the local level, are designed to improve overall case management and service delivery provided to children and their families. These efforts include:

- Consultation/training for staff in the county offices to assist them with developing service strategies with multi-problem families and family-based applications. Family-centered Services (FCS) contracted consultants (family-based practitioners skilled in family centered practice) help staff explore options and approaches to presenting problems with families, role model the staffing process, and reinforce the skills of a family-centered approach.
- Training for contracted consultants and Children's Services Specialist's on utilization of Family Conferencing Techniques, as well as Community Partnering for the Protection of Children philosophy for intact families. FCS consultants and Children's Services Specialist's will be able to model this technique for Children's Division staff for use in family service delivery.
- Training provided for FCS staff by Children's Division staff trainers or contracted trainers (i.e., Intensive In-home Services trainers), to assist them in improving their skills in providing family-centered services, e.g., interviewing skills. This training is usually provided within the context of completing and understanding the tools within the CS-16, Family Assessment Packet. Other training that can be accessed at the local or community level according to identified training needs, and Area training plans.

- The provision of specific one-on-one training with staff and families by modeling a family-centered assessment in the field with staff and selected family, carrying the process to conclusion and critiquing the process for best practice.
- Bring other providers to the table (e.g., Temporary Assistance, FUTURES, Self-Sufficiency, Child Support Enforcement Staff) as identified, in the process of providing direct technical assistance in Family-Centered Services assessment and service delivery.
- Provide clinical consultation services for Division in-house Intensive in Home (formerly Family Preservation) Services (IIS) staff. Such services would be focused on assisting IIS specialists in strategizing the assessment, treatment planning, goal setting, service delivery, termination, and the development of IIS follow-up service planning.
- Develop new ways consultation can be provided as an education component within communities on family-centered, strengths-based practice.

**The total funding necessary for Family-Centered Services, for each federal fiscal year, FFY-04 and FFY-05, is \$205,549.**

Child Abuse and Neglect Conferences are also opportunities for staff to receive training to improve their investigative/assessment techniques and skills to better serve children and families. Missouri continues to develop, strengthen and facilitate training to keep Division staff on the cutting edge of child protective service delivery. However, due to state budget restraints, Missouri Children's Division is limited to providing statewide conferences, as we have in the past. The Children's Division is supportive of the Prevent Child Abuse Missouri videoconference, being held in three separate sessions with six videoconference sites throughout the state.

Speakers of national and state reputation are presenting at the statewide Prevent Child Abuse Missouri videoconference with numerous workshops designed to meet needs identified by the multi-disciplinary planning committee. The conferences are hosted by the Missouri Chapter-National Committee to Prevent Child Abuse, Missouri Children's Trust Fund, and the Missouri Children's Justice Act Task Force. The conference focused on the prevention, identification, and/or treatment of child abuse/neglect.

**The total funding to support Prevent Child Abuse Missouri in the statewide CA/N Conference, is \$50,000.**

The Division will send representatives to the required National Center for Child Abuse and Neglect (NCCAN) State Liaison meetings. Representatives of the

Division presented at the National CA/N Conference, April 21, 2005, in Boston, MA, on safety in out-of-home care. Additionally, a Division representative attended the Inaugural Drug Endangered Children National Conference in Denver, CO, in pursuit of enhancing Missouri's statewide policy and practice related to responding to ca/n incidents involving drug-exposure. In addition to the child's safety, we are enhancing our practice and training on worker safety.

**The total funding necessary for NCCAN, for each federal fiscal year, FFY-04 and FFY-05 is \$10,000.**

The Department of Social Services, Children's Division, is a member of the Missouri Chapter-National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse (NCPCA), Missouri Juvenile Justice Association (MJJA), Child Welfare League of America (CWLA), and National Data Analysis System (NDAS). The Division is committed to the support of each of these organizations and their efforts to prevent child abuse. The yearly dues as a member agency will be paid from this grant.

**The total funding necessary for NCPCA/MJJA/CWLA/NDAS yearly dues, for each federal fiscal year FFY-04 and FFY-05, is \$12,000.**

The Division supports Prevent Child Abuse Missouri's Training Institute for Home-based Service Providers. This includes 180 training hours through 19 two-day training sessions. Training locations include St. Louis, Columbia, Independence, St. Joseph and Joplin. There were (an average of) 32 visitation workers per session who had their knowledge and skill enhanced by these advanced training sessions. With funding provided through the Division, twelve home-based training sessions were held in SFY-02 and in SFY-03. Six training sessions were held in Columbia and six in St. Louis. Training topics include professional development, domestic violence, sexual abuse, high-risk families, working with fathers, legal issues, child development, child growth, supervisor training, teenage parents, child health, and family health.

**The total funding necessary to support the Home Based Services Training Institute for each federal fiscal year FFY-04 and FFY-05 is \$60,000.**

The Division will also purchase resource/training material for central office and field staff to equip them to remain current on new and emerging trends in the prevention and treatment of child abuse and neglect. Pamphlets, booklets, etc. will be purchased for mandated reporters and others to provide information on child abuse and neglect. We also have printed copies of the state child abuse/neglect law booklets and mandated reporter pamphlets, "Guidelines for Child Abuse and Neglect Report" for school personnel and other material which the Division produces, e.g.; telephone stickers and bookmarks with the Child Abuse/Neglect toll-free number.

**The total funding necessary for resource/training materials, for each federal fiscal year FFY-04 and FFY-05, is \$50,000.**

In October 2001, the Division signed a contract with the Children's Research Center, a division of the National Council on Crime and Delinquency to begin incorporating the Structured Decision-Making (SDM) model into Missouri's Child Welfare practice. This model brings structure and consistency to critical decision making points in the child welfare system, through the use of assessment tools that are objective, comprehensive and easy to use. As first priority, the Division will focus on developing SDM tools for Response Priority, including the screening in and out of all child abuse/neglect hotline calls, as well as setting timeframes for field workers to respond to the report. In addition, the Division incorporated SDM tools for determining track assignment, i.e., screening report as an investigation versus a family assessment at the Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline intake level and confirmation at the field level. SDM tools are also being utilized on our safety assessment practice. Many system upgrades have taken place within the Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline to accommodate the SDM tools, as well as overall hotline equipment upgrades to allow for the call management system. Our Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline has upgraded the phone system to allow for emergency calls to be routed to the next available hotline worker and all other calls to be taken in the order they were received. Our Call Management system provides real-time data to show how many callers have gotten through to a hotline worker, how many callers are waiting, as well as the length of time a caller has been 'in Que'. This system allows for accurate allocation of resources. In addition, we have developed and are testing a unique set of protocol cards to handle each call much like emergency dispatcher units.

Children's Research Center (CRC) conducted a first year implementation evaluation in April 2004. CRC reported Missouri's practice is reflective of other state's outcomes during their first year of implementation. Overall, CRC found the safety and risk assessment SDM tools were completed and actions taken in the case consistent with CRC policy on SDM.

**The total funding necessary for incorporating SDM into Missouri's Child Abuse/Neglect Hotline System and Child Welfare Practice through system changes, program developing, field-testing, training, and evaluation for each federal fiscal year FFY-05, is \$100,000.**

The State of Missouri is committed to providing a comprehensive array of services through public agencies and community action, which will prevent and treat child abuse and neglect in Missouri. The initiatives identified above will allow us to strengthen our programs and services in this area to develop or to enhance Missouri's process of intake, investigation, assessment, case management and service delivery, as well as, enhance the capacity of community based programs.

**The total funding requested, which include funding for all the above CD initiatives and activities, for federal fiscal year FFY-05 is \$545,680.**